Docket No. F-8184

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
EXAMINING GROUP 1733

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	:	Masanori NONOMURA, et al.
Serial No.	:	10/796,229
Filed	:	March 9, 2004
For	:	APPARATUS FOR FABRICATING A MULTI-FIBER POLARIZATION-MAINTAINING FIBER ASSEMBLY
Group Art Unit	:	1733
Examiner	:	Justin R. Fischer
Confirmation No.	:	2174
Customer No.	:	000028107

MAIL STOP AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action of March 16, 2007.

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Attached is an English translation of applicant's Japanese Priority Application No. 2001-071583 filed March 14, 2001 which is prior to the filing date (June 28, 2001) of U.S. Patent No. 6,799,370 (Shekel et al.). Also enclosed is a signed Declaration of Translator. A certified copy of applicant's Japanese Priority Application No. 2001-07583 was filed in U.S. Parent Application Serial No. 09/942,857.

In view of the above, applicant has perfected its claim for priority and thereby removes U.S. Patent No. 6,799,370 as an effective reference against this instant application.

Since claims 5-6 were all rejected on U.S. Patent No. 6,799,370 as the main reference and since this reference has now been removed, there are no longer any outstanding issues and the allowance of claims 5-6 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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FJJ/cj
Enc.   Japanese Priority Application No. 2001-071583
        Declaration of Translator

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